

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-10

INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /088 W

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O R 011520Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 312

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 7489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: OCT. 31-NOV. 1 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT EFFORTS TO
HASTEN DEPLOYMENT OF ADF

1. MEDIA FOCUSED ON EFFORTS BY AL TO DEPLOY ARAB DETERRENT
FORCE (ADF) PROMPTLY. ACCORDING TO MEDIA SARKIS TELEPHONED
AL SEC GEN RIYAD DEMANDING HASTENING OF ADF DISPATCH TO
LEBANON. RIYAD SUBSEQUENTLY SENT URGENT MESSAGES TO ARAB
GOVERNMENTS TO SPEED UP FINANCING FOR ADF AND TO SEND F
RCES

ASAP. DR. KHOLI TRANSMITTED DAMASCUS OCT. 31 AND ARRIVED IN
BEIRUT TO RESUME CONTACTS WITH PARTIES TO CONFLICT. HE MET AT
MALKART HOTEL WHERE ASF COMMANDERS GATHERED. KHOLI PRO-
FESSED OPTIMISM THAT LEBANESE CRISIS ON WAY TO SETTLEMENT AND
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CITED AS EVIDENCE RELATIVE CALMNESS IN LEBANON. KHOLI TOLD

TISHRIIN THAT ADF FORCES WOULD ARRIVE SOON TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN HALTING THE FIGHTING.

2. OCT. 31 PRESS CLAIMED GENERAL CALM EXISTED IN LEBANON WITH EXCEPTION SOME ARTILLERY FIRE HEARD IN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT AND SOME CLASHES IN CHOUF REGION.

3. SANA DISPATCH ANNOUNCED VISIT BY JAMIL AND TLASS TO SYRIAN FORCES IN BHAMDOUN AND OTHER AREAS IN LEBANON TO EXPLAIN SITUATION IN AFTERMATH OF ARAB SUMMITS.

4. NUMBER OF LEBANESE POLITICAL GROUPS ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR SYRIA. FACTION LED BY KAMAL SHATILA PRAISED ASAD'S ROLE IN ARAB SUMMITS AND PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR PRES. SARKIS. LEBANESE DRUZE LEADERS ALSO ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR SARKIS' ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT SUMMIT RESES. LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS' COS, AIR MAJOR MAMUD MATAR, TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT RIYAD THAT VANGUARDS EQUIPPED AND READY TO WORK WITHIN CONTEXT SYRIAN INITIATIVE AND ADF AND ARE AT DISPOSAL PRES. SARKIS. IN DAMASCUS, CATHOLIC LEADERS CABLED PRES. ASAD TO EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR HIS POSITION AT SUMMITS.

5. FONMIN KHADDAM ADDRESSED PEOPLES' COUNCIL (PARLIAMENT) OCT. 31 IN CLOSED SESSION REGARDING LEBANON, ARAB SUMMITS, AND GENERAL ARAB SITUATION. NO FURTHER DETAILS PROVIDED BY MEDIA. NOV. 1 PRESS REPORTED SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN MARONITE REPS AND PLO ARRANGED BY MAJ. GEN. GHUNAYM HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE.

6. PRESS REPORTED FOREIGN MEDIA SUPPORT FOR SYRIA. KUWAITI RAI AL-AMM PRAISED SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN UNITY AND RETURN OF FEDAYEEN TO SOUTH LEBANON. SUDANESE PRES. NUMAYRI MET WITH SANA CORRESPONDENT IN KHARTOUM AND PRAISED ASAD'S ROLE IN ARAB SUMMITS. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED AL-AHRAM ARTICLE STRESSING HISTORICAL TENDENCY TOWARD SYRO-EGYPTIAN SOLIDARITY.

7. AL-BAATH EDITORIAL STRESSED "SYRIA STANDS AGAINST ANY FORCE REFUSING TO BE BOUND BY SUMMIT RESES OR TRYING TO EVADE THEM UNDER ANY PRETEXT SUCH AS REVENT, REACTION, RETALIATION, OR RECIPROCAL CONFESSIONAL MASSACRES." TISHRIIN DENOUNCED UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTEMPTS BY IRAQ TO INSTIGATE FURTHER CLASHES IN LEBANON AND CONDEMNED ISRAEL FOR INFLAMING CONFESSIONAL STRIFE IN SOUTH LEBANON "TO DEMOLISH FOUNDATION OF CEASEFIRE." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST REITERATED THAT ARAB SUMMIT RESES PUT STAMP OF LEGALITY ON SYRIAN INITIATIVE IN LEBANON AND WARNED AGAINST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.

8. COMMENT: AL-BAATH EDITORIAL IMPLIES SYRIA READY TO

DISCIPLINE ANY GROUP, INCLUDING CHRISTIANS AS WELL AS TRADITIONAL PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST ADVERSARIES, WHICH ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE CEASEFIRE.
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